

About the introduction of compulsory primary education, I have only to repeat what I stated already, *viz.*, that the present idea of the Government is not to introduce compulsion.

The Director of Public Instruction has agreed to provide an appointment for the Ezhava lady graduate referred to by you, if she applies.

Your representations about scholarships to Ezhavas and the prevention of juvenile smoking are noted.

134. Muslim Education.

Mr. M. K. Makkaru Pillai (Member, Nominated) complained that the concessions in respect of Mahomedan education granted by G. O. No. E. 1989, dated the 31st May 1919, had not been given effect to in full and to the best advantage to the members of the Mahomedan community. The Member referred to a promise of Government to grant a site to a Mahomedan college to be built at Alwaye and detailed the circumstances under which that pledge had not been redeemed by the Government. He requested that that site might be given at least now. As regards the English schools to be opened for the benefit of Mahomedans, the Member pointed out that the Government had taken the necessary action only in respect of the Alleppey school. He requested that the proposed school at Chirayinkil might be soon started. In regard to the English school at Tiruvitankod, the arrangement agreed to was that the Government should give them a site and that the people interested should put up a building, the school being till then held in the Mahomedan Association building. Though more than 4 years had elapsed since the issue of the G. O. quoted above, the site had not yet been given, in spite of the fact that the people on their part had deposited Rs. 4,000 in the local Taluk treasury as a token of their earnestness in the matter. The Member requested early action in the matter of the site being acquired and handed over to the people, so that the school might be held in the new building as early as practicable. The Member then made the following requests:—

1. Arabic should be taught within school hours just like Tamil in Malayalam schools and Malayalam in Tamil schools.

2. The rule that a teacher in a Mahomedan primary school should teach Arabic also should be changed and it should be laid down that Arabic should be taught by a separate Munshi.

3. Grants-in-aid should be given to Arabic Munshies employed in private Mahomedan schools.

4. The ordinary rule in regard to the award of grant-in-aid, namely, a minimum strength of 16 in respect of backward communities, should be strictly enforced, since, as the rule stood at present, difficulties were being experienced by the Mahomedan community in securing grant-in-aid in cases where the strength fell below 25.

5. Under the existing rule Arabic Munshies were appointed only when there was an actual strength of 25 Mahomedans in a mixed school. The Member requested that that rule be changed so as to admit of Arabic Munshies being appointed even in those schools in which, according to the Mahomedan Inspector, there was the prospect of the admission of 25 Mahomedan pupils during the school year.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.—(Continued.)

135. Needs of the Mahomedan Community.

Mr. M. K. Makkaru Pillai (Member, Nominated) spoke about the backward condition of Mahomedans in respect of education and thanked the Government for the boons already conferred on the community in that respect. He, however, maintained that no appreciable progress could be made unless and until primary education was made compulsory among Mahomedans. The Member then dwelt upon the urgent need of empowering the Mahomedan Inspector of Schools to appoint Arabic munshies. It was an old subject represented in several previous sessions of the Assembly; but the request had not yet been granted.

As regards the admission of Mahomedans in the public service, the Member concurred in the views of Mr. P. S. Mahomad.

The Member thanked the Government for having declared 'Ramzan' and 'Bakrid' as public holidays as a result of repeated representations in the Assembly. He requested that 'Barawafat,' the most holy day for Mahomedans, being the birth-day of the Prophet, be also declared a public holiday.

The Member pointed out that the subject of the removal of the 'Koran' from the courts had been pressed on the attention of the Government during the previous sessions of the Assembly, but that nothing had been done in the matter. The removal of the Koran from courts would not cause any loss to Government nor evoke any complaint or criticism from the Mahomedan community. The swearing in court by a Mahomedan could be done even without a copy of the Koran. The Member therefore prayed for the removal of Koran from courts.

136. Suggestions for the amelioration of the present condition of Muslims.

Mr. P. S. Mahomed (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for declaring two Mahomedan holidays (*Ramzan* and *Bakrid*) as public holidays. He said that the other 3 Mahomedan holidays were also public holidays in other parts of India, and requested that at least *Barawafat*, the most important of those three days might be declared a public holiday at once. He next complained that Mahomedans were not receiving their due share of encouragement in the Sirkar service, although several G. O's. and circulars had been issued on the subject. He said that no departments except the Education Department contained any Mahomedan and requested Government to examine the caste-war lists of appointments made in the several departments during the last 3 years. Even in the Education Department Muslims did not receive adequate encouragement, while in the Judicial Department, not even a clerk's post was given to a Mahomedan during the last three years. He said that, when small posts had to be filled, heads of departments generally preferred men of other communities, and that, when permanent vacancies occurred, the claims of Mahomedans who had acted on several occasions, were overlooked and other persons who entered the service later were appointed. He also regretted that the Government did nothing when the just claims of Muslim officers were overlooked by heads of departments. He instanced the case of a Muslim District Superintendent of Police who, when acting in that appointment, was senior to others, but had been superseded by others when he was confirmed in that post. He also referred to the recommendations of Mr. Cunningham in respect of another Muslim officer who brought in a gain of more than a lakh of rupees to the Government through his work in Bombay and other places, and regretted that such an officer was being persecuted by the present Commissioner of Police. In the Excise Department, Mahomedans were not receiving the promotions legitimately due to them, in spite of what he had stated on the subject in the previous year. He referred to the case of a Mahomedan who was promoted only as an acting Inspector for two months, while many others who were junior to him were confirmed in that grade. He also referred to Mr. Sheik Haider, a Petty Officer, spoken of by him last year, and to Mr. Ahamed Sait about whom certain queries raised by a deputation had still remained unanswered. In the Secretariat also certain Mahomedans entertained before its reorganisation in 1098 did not get any promotion, and that a Mahomedan graduate acting on Rs. 50 was not only not confirmed, but had his pay reduced to Rs. 40 subsequently. The Member pointed out a vacancy in which that clerk might be confirmed. He referred also to the only Mahomedan clerk in the lower grade in the Secretariat who, though senior to all other acting clerks, was not confirmed when a permanent vacancy occurred.

The Member next pointed out that there was no permanent grant-in-aid Vaidyan, and requested that men like Sultan Pillai of Kazhakuttam and V. Bappu of Alleppey might be given grants-in-aid. There was an overseas-returned man in his community and he regretted that that man had not yet been provided with a footing in the public service.

The Member next represented that in the Registration Department qualified Mahomedan employees did not get the promotions due to them and prayed for due promotions being given to them.

Lastly, the Member suggested the appointment of a committee to collect detailed information on the subject of *wakfs* in Travancore so as to enable the Government eventually to enact a law on the subject.